



# Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands

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2021 FIRE SEASON OUTLOOK AND PREVENTION CAMPAIGN  
JAMIE BARNES, INTERIM DIRECTOR

# Fire Season 2021

- We started the season hot and dry
- Utah is experiencing extreme drought conditions
- Above normal temperatures along with drought have produced fire behavior normally seen much later in the season
- Fuels are at critical levels across the state and will continue to cure
- Conditions are expected to worsen and remain extreme
- New starts have the potential to grow rapidly
- Little to no relief of new or ongoing suppression efforts with forecasted winds and temps

Photo Credit Pete Hughes, Southwest Rod & Custom

# Division Focus

- Firefighter Safety
- Public Safety
- Communication
- Structure protection
- Air and water quality impacts
- Wildlife and habitat impacts
- Post-fire Rehabilitation
- Prevention
- Suppression costs /cost recovery
- Resource management

*Photo Credit Lone Peak Hotshots*

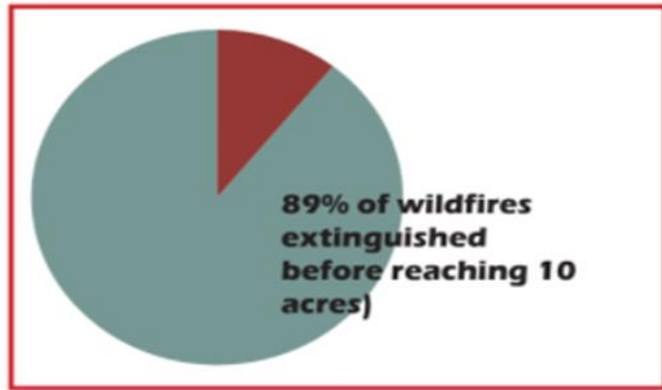


# Dashboard as of June 14, 2021

Season <b>2021</b> Summary	<b>FIRES</b> <b>370</b>	<b>ACRES</b> <b>39,235</b>
<b>Human</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>18,441</b>
<b>Natural</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>20,744</b>
<b>Unknown</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>50</b>

# Dashboard Breakdown

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*ONLY 68 OUT OF 356  
WILDFIRES HAVE  
GROWN LARGER  
THAN 10 ACRES*

Approx. 85% of fires are  
human caused

Current Fires:

Bear(near Price)11,061- Natural-19%

Bennion (near Price) -8,325-Natural- 10%

Pack(near Moab)-8,435- Human -16%

# SUPPRESSION COSTS

*As of June 15*

- Estimated between \$12-\$22 million (state and federal)
- This number will grow by \$2-\$4 million per day
- 2- FMAG fires as of June 13<sup>th</sup> (Pack and Mammoth)
- Many of the fire costs share agreements and acre footprints are yet to be completed
- 2021 could be the most expensive fire season on record for Utah

Cost Recovery: The new asst. attorney general focused on cost recovery starts July 7th

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# Mitigation

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- Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)
- Catastrophic Wildfire Risk Reduction (CatFire)
- UWRAP (Utah Wildfire Risk Reduction Assessment Portal)
  - primary mechanism for the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands to deploy wildfire risk information and create awareness about wildfire issues across the state
- Shared Stewardship
  - Shared Stewardship is a cooperative approach to managing Utah's forests.

# Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Program

- Catastrophic Wildfire Reduction Strategy

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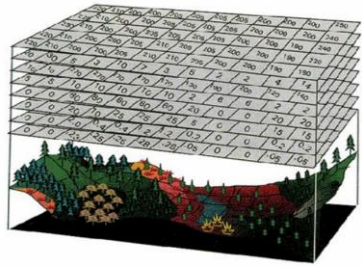
  - In FY21 13 projects were funded throughout the state (\$1 million)
- National Fire Program
  - In FY21 project funded through the Service State Fire Assistance Grant program (\$298,000)
  - In FY21 3 projects funded through the Forest Service Cooperative Fire Program (\$765,000)
- WUI Coordinators continue to
  - Engage with communities to create Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP's)
  - Facilitate Community Chipping Events
  - Participate in HOA and community meetings
  - Provide Lot Assessments for interested residents



# Utah Wildfire Risk Assessment (UWRAP)



# UWRAP

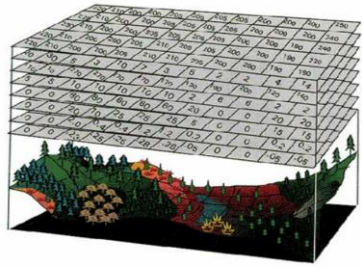


- Why Measure Risk?

- Risk = “the possibility of suffering harm or loss” (we want to reduce risk).
- Produce a wildfire risk assessment that measures the magnitude of the current wildfire problem.
- Provide a quantifiable baseline to help inform mitigation activities and monitor fuelscapes across time.
- Create a method that is repeatable, quantifiable, scientifically based, consistent and provides results comparable across geographic areas.
- Generate information that enhances states’ ability to communicate wildfire risk to the public.



# Leveraging People and Technology

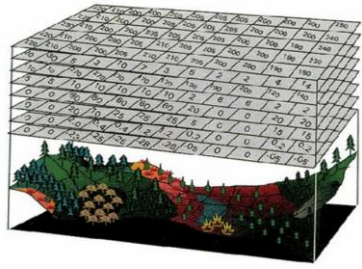


- Working with Local, state and federal partners to build the risk assessment model ( USFS, WRI, BLM, BIA).
- Building a way to update our fuelscapes so when on-the-ground projects are completed or when a wildfire burns we can track, monitor, quantify and update risk biannually.
- Creating a set of training document and improve the standardization of the Cooperative Wildfire System (CWS).





# UWRAP ~ Present



- July 2021 build a list of High Value Resources and Assets (HVRA)
  - Portion of the modeling where State staff will work together through a series of workshops with our partners to identify and characterize highly valued resources and assets to include in the risk assessment.
- End of 2021 a fuelscape raster will be generated to use in wildfire simulation.
- Generate burn probability rasters and polygons representing each of the simulated wildfire perimeters.
- Spring 2023 validate the effects analysis and generate a final report and publish data to UWRAP modules.





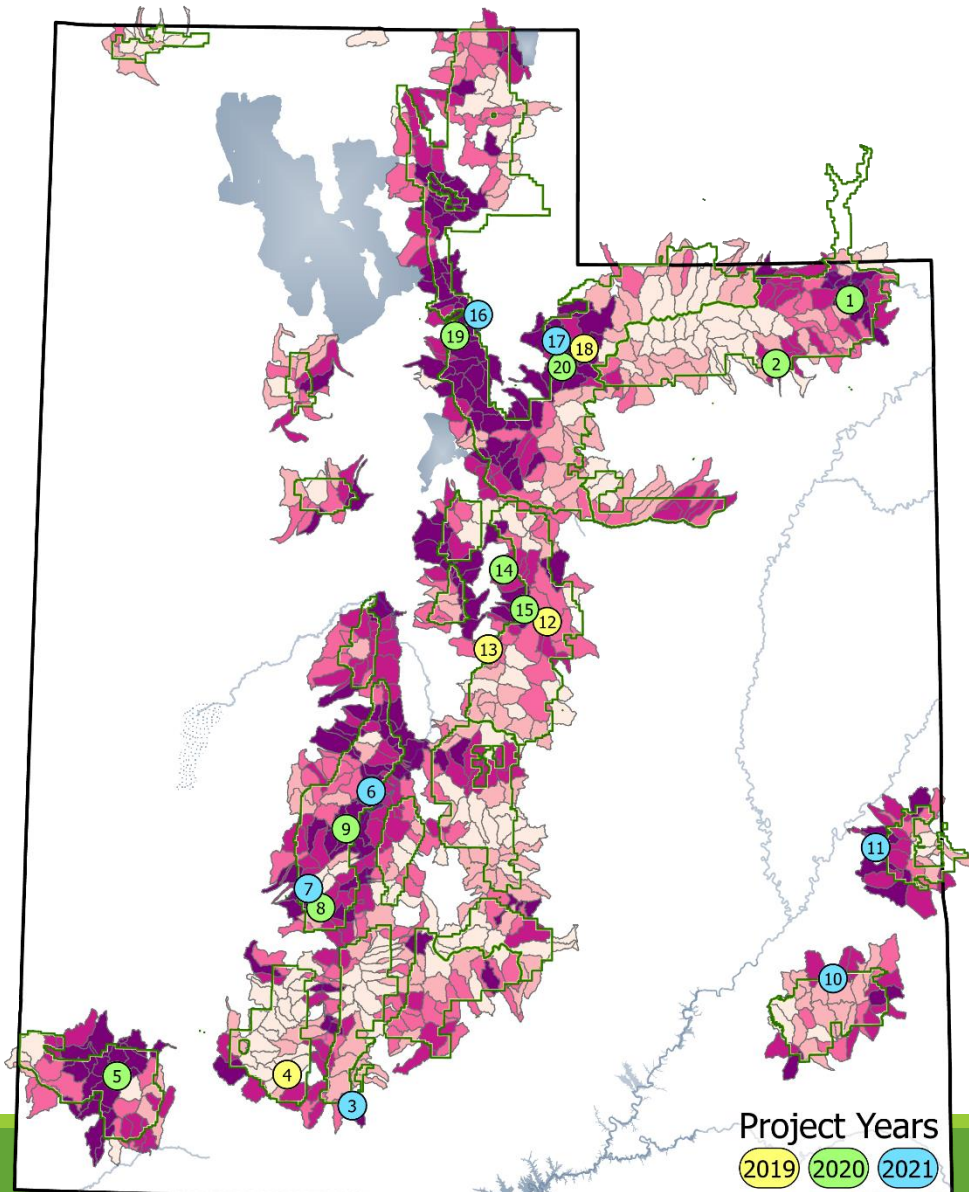
# Utah Shared Stewardship

- Shared Stewardship is focused on protecting at-risk communities and watersheds from catastrophic fire
- A multi-party solution and an evolution in our way of engagement
- Focused investments
- Three core principles:
  - Mutual priorities
  - Cross-boundary work
  - Landscape scale





# Shared Stewardship Projects



Forest	Project	Funding
UWC	Upper Provo	\$3,267,000
	Parleys	\$555,400
Fishlake	Beaver River	\$3,968,000
	Elsinore/Joseph	\$1,638,000
Manti	Canyons	\$500,000
	Mill Creek	\$658,000
	La Sal/Abajo	\$21000
	Skyline West	\$202,000
	Willows/New Canyon	\$386,000
Dixie	Pinto	\$1,980,000
	Billingsly	\$110,000
	Deer Springs	\$427,500
	Sawyer Point	\$328,000
Ashley	Cart Creek	\$127,500
	Whiterocks	\$178,200
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,346,600</b>

# Wood Utilization & Business Development

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*Engaging entrepreneurs and businesses with Federal, State, and local agencies to stimulate economic capacity and new market opportunities in Utah for forestry work, wood utilization, and forest products, in coordination with Utah's Shared Stewardship Agreement between the State and the U.S. Forest Service.*

## **Shared Stewardship priorities:**

- Wildfire risk reduction and forest restoration projects.
- Increase the pace and scale of forest work for more jobs in the woods and more available wood products.

**Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)** reflect Shared Stewardship goals related to wood supply, jobs and businesses.

1. Increasing supply of timber or woody materials to support the wood utilization industry.
2. Improving the certainty and consistency of timber or wood-product supply from National Forests to support the wood utilization industry.
3. Increasing the number of jobs in forest management and fuels-reduction, and in timber and wood-product processing and utilization.
4. Retaining and expanding businesses in forest management and fuels reduction, and wood-product processing and utilization.

# PREVENTION

- 2020 General Session \$1.8 million was appropriated for fire prevention
- An ad/PR firm with experience and proven success was the successful bidder, Bonneville Communications (BonCom)
- We are already seeing their work around the state

**You know the fire drill.  
Secure your trailer chains.**

**PREVENT  
WILD  
FIRES**

01042



**You know the fire drill.  
Park away from dry grass.**

**PREVENT  
WILD  
FIRES**

004084





**You know the fire drill.**  
**Douse your campfire.**

**PREVENT  
WILD  
FIRES**

city outdoor

# Questions/Discussions

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*"Do we want to react to the catastrophic impacts wildfire...  
or proactively invest lesser sums to reduce the risks?"*